LINCOLN SENSE

Society of Lincoln Cent Collectors • Dr. Sol Taylor, President • 13515 Magnolia Blvd. • Sherman Oaks, CA 91423

SLCC is dedicated to the collecting and study of the LINCOLN CENT. Our journal, LINCOLN SENSE, is published six times a year. Annual membership is $15 and foreign mailing is $20. Life membership is available at $150.

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Save Used Commemorative Stamps for SLCC

Recycle Your Coins--Spend Them...

Start A Youngster in Collecting... Invest in the Future of Numismatics

PCGS MAKES GAFF

Collectors are well aware that grading services make grading errors. But have you ever heard of making a mint mark error? Possibly the only such error is in our current mail bid sale Lot #3. The slab says "1931S MS63RB". The coin is actually a 1931D! We're sure PCGS would gladly make a switch to a correct slab--at no charge. But it is such an oddity as to have value for the error buff. It is not unlike (but much rarer) the U.S. Mint putting the wrong coin in a proof set--such as two dimes instead of one dime and one cent--or putting a 1997 coin in a 1998 Mint Set. We are not aware of any similar labeling error with PCGS.

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1970S VARIETIES

In COIN WORLD, June 1, 1998, a story was published about the 1970S cent--sometimes referred to "small" and "large" or "High 7" and "Low 7". This article covers the subject very thoroughly and should be a good guide to determining which 1970S you have (or are looking for).

COMPARE THE word LIBERTY on the Proof 1970-S Lincoln. Level 7 cent to the left with that on the Low 7 cent on the right. Note how weak and indistinct LIBERTY is on the Level 7 cent compared to the Low 7 cent. Modifications to the master die resulted in strong details and a slightly different date on the Low 7 cent.

Don't look at the date!

Ignore logical design element when trying to identify date varieties of 1970-S cent

continued on next page...

By William T. Gibbs
COIN WORLD Staff

It's a frequent question here at *Coin World* – how does one distinguish between the two date varieties of 1970-S Lincoln cent? The answer might surprise most.

Don't look at the date!

Many of you are probably asking yourself, "What does he mean? How can you determine a date variety by not looking at the date?"

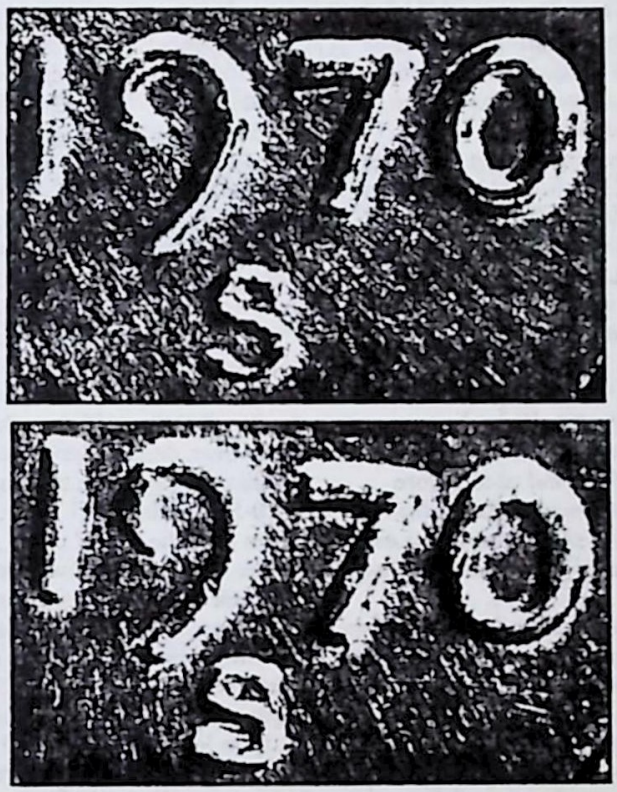
If you'll all bear with me, we'll explain not only how you can determine whether you own a 1970-S Lincoln, Level 7 cent or a 1970-S Lincoln, Low 7 cent, but why it's easier to do so by not looking at the date first.

Ten years after the U.S. Mint produced 1960 and 1960-D Lincoln cents from two different master dies to create the Small Date and Large Date varieties, collectors began seeing something similar on 1970-S Lincoln cents. The date on some 1970-S Lincoln cents appeared to be a bit smaller than those on other 1970-S cents, though not to the same degree as on the 1960 and 1960-D cents. Collectors and dealers quickly began referring to these two 1970-S cents as Small Date and Large Date varieties.

Almost immediately, Mint officials denied that two master dies had been used to create the 1970 cent varieties, just as they claimed in 1960. "They are not large and small dates," one Mint spokesman said of the two different varieties.

While the 1960 statement by Mint officials eventually was shown to be false, there's little doubt that just one master die was used in 1970. Mint officials claim the master die was modified. In a story published in the April 15, 1970, issue of *Coin World*, Frank Gasparro, chief engraver of the U.S. Mint, is quoted as blaming a change to the master die to strengthen the date. According to the Mint, Gasparro sharpened or deepened the master die after 1970 cent production had begun. Mint employees noted that the date on the cent seemed to be striking "shallow," so Gasparro deepened

Please see **DON'T LOOK** Page 111



NOTE THE position of the 7 in relation to the 9 and 0 in the dates on these two coins. The top of the 7 is level with the 9 and 0 on the Level 7 cents, top, and below the levels on the Low 7 coin, bottom. The Level 7 cent is the scarcer of the two.

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DON'T LOOK from Page 107

the date to produce a sharper date. Thus hubs and dies were produced from before and after the master die was altered, resulting in coins of both varieties being struck in 1970 at the San Francisco Assay Office.

Early on, some collectors thought they had found the same two varieties on 1970-D Lincoln cents, struck at the Denver Mint. However, the April 15, 1970, *Coin World* indicates that any differences in dates on the 1970-D cents were probably due to die usage rather a difference in hubs or dies. Ed Fleischmann of *Coin World's* Collectors' Clearinghouse wrote that the so-called Medium Date found on some 1970-D cents was probably due to die wear or die polish.

Today, researchers recognize two varieties of 1970-S Lincoln cent – the Level 7, sometimes called the High 7 or Small Date variety, and the Low 7 variety, sometimes called the Large Date variety. The two 1970-S cent varieties are found on both Proof and business strikes. All known 1970 and 1970-D Lincoln cents are of the Low 7 variety. (That fact raises some interesting points: Were dies produced from the unmodified master die sent to San Francisco and used before cent production began at Philadelphia and Denver? That could explain why no Level 7 varieties are known from Denver and Philadelphia.)

The two San Francisco varieties get their more accurate names from the positioning of the 7 in the date and its relationship to the other digits in the date. The top of the Level 7 variety is, as the name suggests, level with the tops of the numerals 9 and 0. The top of the Low 7 variety is below the tops of the 9 and 0.

However, it's very hard to determine whether the 7 on a 1970-S cent is Level with the 9 and 0, or slightly below the two numerals. The differences are that slight. That's why collectors often have trouble distinguishing one variety from the other. Which brings us back to our original advice: Don't look at the date!

Instead, look at the word LIBERTY on any 1970-S Lincoln cent. If LIBERTY is somewhat weak or indistinct, it's the scarcer Level 7 variety. If LIBERTY is strong and clear, it's the common Low 7 variety. The differences between the strong LIBERTY and the weak LIBERTY are easier to distinguish than the differences between the placement of the 7 in the date. That's true for both Proof coins and business strikes.

Apparently the problem with the master die affected more than just the date. The word LIBERTY struck up poorly on the Level 7 coins as well, and apparently was fixed at the same time the date was fixed.

The date varieties of 1970-S Lincoln cent aren't quite as avidly collected as the 1960 cent date varieties. That's due in large part, no doubt, to the greater difficulty in distinguishing between the two 1970-S cents. The differences in the 1960 cents are much clearer, with the shapes of the 6 and 0 distinctly different between the Small Date and Large Date varieties.

However, despite the difficulty in distinguishing between the two varieties, the 1970-S Lincoln Level 7 cents carry a premium over the Low 7 coins, particularly for the Proofs. The Low 7 business strike coins are worth face value in all but the highest grades, and even Mint State 65 specimens are worth just 50 cents. Trends values for the Level 7 cents, however, begin at $5 in Fine 12, and continue at $7.50 in Very Fine 20, $9.50 in Extremely Fine 40, $11 in About Uncirculated 50, $19 in Mint State 60, $24 in MS-63, $62.50 in MS-65 red, $55 in Proof 65.

Thus it pays to be able to distinguish between the two varieties of 1970-S Lincoln cent.

Just don't look only at the date! GW

MAIL BID SALE #91 CLOSING DATE JULY 29, 1998

Mail your bid sheets in early. In case of a tie, the earliest bid wins.

Lot Description

Los Angeles Consignment

1 1876 Indian NCG Pf64RB - golden brown lustrous obverse, teeny speck in AMERICA. Reverse-a glossy chocolate. Mintage only 1,150. Scarce date.

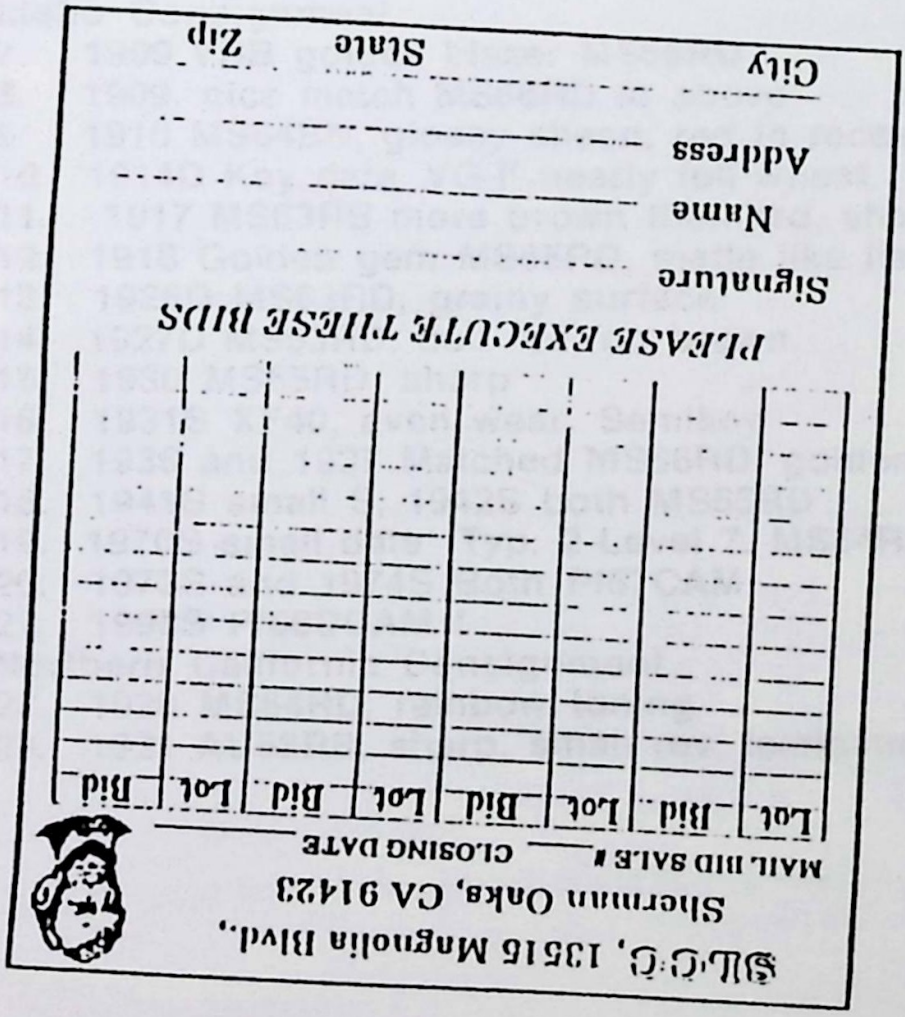
2. 1909S VDB PCGS XF45, similar to lot #20 in MB Sale #90 which sold for $501. Key date.

3. 1931S PCGS MS63RB. Label says "1931S". rare PCGS label error. Semikey coin scarcer than the 1931S. See P.1

4. 1931S XF40, even wear. Semi-key.

5. 1960P small date MS65RD

6. Fifteen proofs in custom Capital 3pc holder 1950-1964. The [illegible] in full Pf65 with light colorful toning, the rest matched [illegible] small



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gems

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24. 1928 MS64 RB, mostly red, few specks
25. 1930 MS65RD, fingerprint obv.
26. Trio of MS65RD: 1936, 1936S, 1937D
27. Two MS65 RD: 1939, 1939S
28. Three MS65RD: 1941D, 1944D, 1946
29. 1960sm Pf65RD
30. Three proof 65RD: 1961, 1962, 1963
31. Three proofs 67CAM: 1971S, 1977S, 1978S
32. Collection of 18 RPMs and other varieties: 1939D RPM#1 65RD, 1944D RPM#1 65RD, 1952D RPM#3 MS65RD, 1952S RPM#5 65RD, 1954D triple D #1d 65RD, 1954S RPM#6 65RD, 1954S filled "9" 65RD, 1954S RPM#5 65RD, 1954S #7 65RD, 1955D #1 65RD, 1954S #1b 65RD, 1955D #4 65RD, 1955S #2 65RD, 1955S #4 65RD, 1955D DDO 1-0-IV XF40, 1957D #1 65RD, 1955S "BIE" 65RD, 1964D #2 63RB. (18 coins)
33 1951D/S OMM#1, XF45, Breen #2202.

Long Beach Consignment

34 1909 VDB, lot of ten XF40-45, nice sharp coins
35 1911 Pf64RD, Obv #1. Golden hues with pinkish red rims. One teeny (0.2mm) speck on rev. Might slab 65. Sharp and ra Current retail (Heritage 6/98) for a Pf65 is $570.
36 1931S VF25. sharper obv than rev. Semi-key date.
37 1955D DDO 1-0-III, MS65RD

End of Mail Bid Sale #91. Mail your bids in early.
Good luck.

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Prices Realized Mail Bid Sale #90 5/29/98

Lot	Bid	Lot	Bid	Lot	Bid	Lot	Bid	Lot	Bid
1	60.	6	40.	11	15.	16	27.	21	100.
2	63.	7	15.	12	7.	17	29.	22	15.
3	12.	8	20.	13	5.	18	35.		
4	40.	9	10.	14	150.	19	40.		
5	45.	10	35.	15	nb	20	501.		

nb = no bid

There were thirty bidders and 14 won one or more lots. Ther were no late bids--thank you.

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Doubling your pleasure

Collectors discover new 1972-S doubled die 1¢

So you want to be the discoverer of a new doubled die? It's been demonstrated over and over again that one discovery often leads to another on the same date and denomination because the conditions that caused the first variety existed long enough to allow more to be created.

Varieties Notebook
Ken Potter

While this is a general rule of thumb within the variety hobby, it should be noted that this principal also often applies to other denominations and Mint marks within the same year.

My colleague, John Wexler, underscored the importance of widening the search to other denominations within a "good year" in his March 16 segment of the "Varieties Notebook" column by highlighting a beautiful but rather obscure doubled die obverse known on the 1972 Kennedy half dollar.

In this column, I demonstrate the importance of searching for varieties on coins produced within other Mints during a "good year"; presenting a completely new discovery of a doubled die obverse found on the 1972-S Lincoln cent!

With all the publicity created for this date and denomination by the major 1972 Die No. 1 Philadelphia strike, collectors have closely scrutinized the 1972 Philadelphia and branch Mint cents for doubled dies for well over 25 years, resulting in a couple dozen varieties being listed for this denomination alone.

So just when you'd think that everything that could possibly be found has been found, along comes the cherrypicking team of Bill O'Rourke and Debbi Lehman to prove that new varieties can still be found on "heavily worked" dates and denominations.

To make the story even more interesting, their find was made while searching circulation change and resulted in what is now the most significant doubled die obverse known on the San Francisco issue of the 1972 business strike cent!

The coin displays a nice example of Class 1/Rotated Hub doubling as a clockwise spread on IN GOD WE TRUST, LIBE of LIBERTY and just inside the upper loop of the "2" of the date.

The variety is now listed in the Variety Coin RegisterÆ as VCR#1/DDO#1 and has been listed by the Society of Die Doubling Collectors of America as: Wexler-DDO-006.

COIN WORLD, Monday, June 1, 1998

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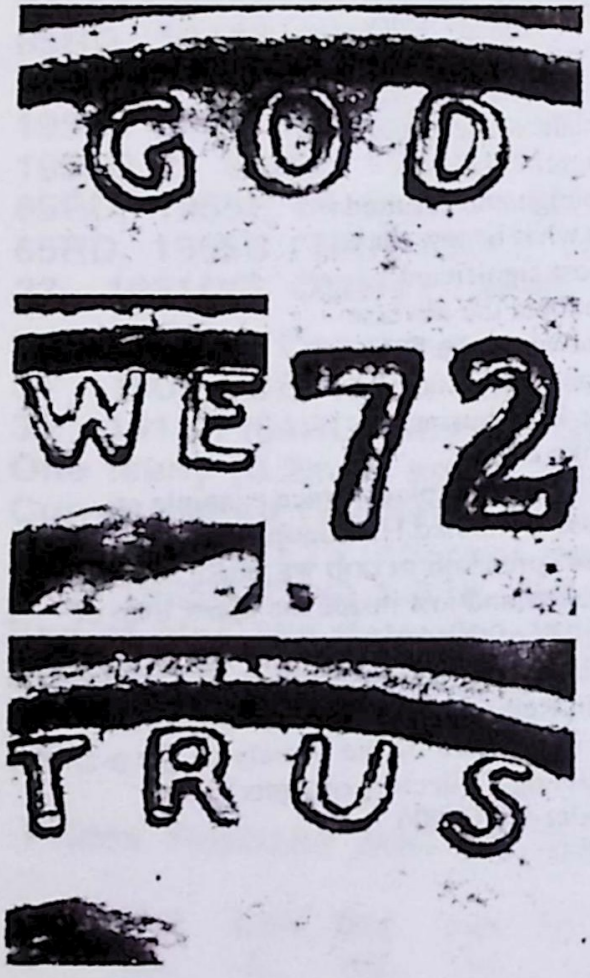
THE 1972-S variety displays a nice example of Class 1/Rotated Hub doubling as a clockwise spread on IN GOD WE TRUST, LIBE of LIBERTY and just inside the upper loop of the "2" of the date.



The text of this column has been kept to a minimum to allow space for as many photos as possible, but collectors interested in learning more about how Class 1 doubled dies are created may send me a self-addressed, stamped envelope (or contact me via e-mail) and request that information.

Collectors may also receive enlarged images of this variety via email by contacting me at: **Kpotter256@aol.com** and asking for Scan#1972-S1cVCR#1. To get a coin listed in the Variety Coin Register, I may be contacted by sending a SASE to: P.O. Box 760232, Lathrup Village, Mich. 48076-0232.

Ken Potter is a Michigan dealer and researcher specializing in error and variety coinage.

RECENT PRICES

A selection of retail prices from Heritage price list (Feb.98) and a COIN WORLD ad indicate the current retail values of Indians and Lincolns. For many dates and grades the prices are higher than a year ago. This is for information purposes only and not a promotion for any dealer.

PROOF INDIAN CENTS

PR64 PCGS. A scarce proof example of this one year type. Light fly-specks account for the grade. Mintage: 800. Population: 78 in 64, 38 higher. $2,550

PR64 PCGS Mintage: 550. Population: 97 in 64, 97 higher. $760

PR64 PCGS Mintage: 550. Population: 97 in 64, 97 higher. $865

Copper Nickel PR65 NGC Mintage: 370. Population: 24 in 65, 4 higher. $1,900

Copper Nickel PR65 NGC. Deeply mirrored under light shades of golden toning. A gem proof example of this scarce date. Mintage: 370. Population: 24 in 65, 4 higher. $2,175

PR65 NGC. Red and Brown. Full red. Mintage: 950. Population: 24 in 65, 5 higher. $865

PR65 PCGS, Red and Brown Population: 26 in 65, none higher. ..$625

PR64 PCGS, Red Mintage: 700. Population: 15 in 64, 16 higher. .$895

PR65 Red PCGS. A gem example with full red color. Population: 19 in 65, 5 higher. $2,275

PR64 PCGS, Red and Brown Population: 84 in 64, 29 higher. $335

PR65 PCGS, Red Population: 51 in 65, 25 higher. $700

PR66 PCGS, Brown. Brown. Population: 7 in 66, none higher. $350

PR67 PCGS, Red and Brown Population: 12 in 67, 1 higher. $975

PR65 PCGS, Red Population: 41 in 65, 32 higher. $650

PR65 PCGS, Red Population: 41 in 65, 10 higher. $650

PR65 NGC, Red Population: 7 in 65, 3 higher. $945

PR66 PCGS, Red Population: 16 in 66, 12 higher. $920

PR66 PCGS, Red Population: 16 in 66, 12 higher. $975

PR65 PCGS, Red Population: 41 in 65, 25 higher. $595

PR66 PCGS, Red. Brown. Population: 17 in 66, 8 higher. $1,125

PR65 PCGS, Red and Brown Population: 19 in 65, 3 higher. $325

LINCOLN CENTS

1909 VDB MS67 NGC, Red Population: 34 in 67, none higher. $300

1909-S VDB MS64 NGC, Red and Brown Population: 207 in 64, 201 higher. $895

1909-S VDB MS65 NGC, Red Population: 91 in 65, 17 higher. $1,625

1916-D MS65 NGC, Red and Brown Population: 28 in 65, 3 higher. $435

1920-D MS65 PCGS, Red, Brown. Population: 57 in 65, 2 higher. $570

1923-S MS64 NGC, Red and Brown Population: 24 in 64, 12 higher. $595

Lincoln Memorial Cents
Brilliant Proof

1968-S	.95	1983-S	3.95
1969-S	.95	1984-S	2.95
1970-S	.95	1985-S	3.95
1971-S	.95	1986-S	5.50
1972-S	.95	1987-S	3.50
1973-S	.95	1988-S	2.00
1974-S	.95	1989-S	2.25
1975-S	3.95	1990-S	4.50
1976-S	2.95	1991-S	7.95
1977-S	2.95	1992-S	5.95
1978-S	2.50	1993-S	8.95
1979-S Ty1	2.95	1994-S	7.95
1979-S Ty2	2.95	1995-S	8.95
1980-S	1.95	1996-S	5.95
1981-S	2.50	1997-S	5.95
1982-S	2.25	1998-S	4.95

All 31 Different $94.00

MORE PRICES

From a June, 1998 Heritage retail price list. For information purposes only.

1865/1865 MS 65 Red NGC. Plain 5. A significant early Indian cent with full mint luster still intact over both sides. A few minor carbon speckles are seen mostly on the reverse. Sharply struck.
Population: 20 in 65, 3 higher. $1,200

1865 MS65 NGC, Red
Population: 20 in 65, 3 higher. $760

1867 MS64 PCGS, Red and Brown
Population: 108 in 64, 19 higher. $530

1868 MS64 PCGS, Brown
Population: 6 in 64, 2 higher. $325

1871 MS 64 Red NGC. The mint red shows a bit of muting on the high-points, but the coin is mostly free from carbon and well defined. Scarce with red color on this early date.
Population: 9 in 64, 4 higher. $1,625

1874 MS64 NGC, Red and Brown
Population: 62 in 64, 68 higher. $315

1875 MS64 PCGS, Red
Population: 32 in 64, 27 higher. $1,100

1877 MS 64 Brown NGC. Variegated gold and brown color with virtually no detractions, other than a couple of tiny carbon spots. Slightly soft in the center of the reverse and the feathers on the obverse, a characteristic of all genuine 1877 cents.
Population: 14 in 64, 3 higher. $3,675

1877 MS 63 Red and Brown NGC. A solid mint state example of this popular key. Both sides display a slightly mottled appearance and are adequately struck however, the obverse shows minor softness at the tips of the feathers.
Population: 12 in 63, 86 higher. $3,675

1878 MS64 NGC, Brown
Population: 17 in 64, 5 higher. $345

1878 MS64 PCGS, Red and Brown
Population: 95 in 64, 30 higher. $450

1879 MS64 NGC, Red
Population: 9 in 64, 21 higher. $325

1879 MS65 PCGS, Red
Population: 31 in 65, 10 higher. $760

1879 MS65 NGC, Red
Population: 20 in 65, 1 higher. $895

1881 MS65 NGC, Red
Population: 24 in 65, 4 higher. $730

1884 MS65 NGC, Red
Population: 19 in 65, 5 higher. $760

1894 MS65 NGC, Red
Population: 20 in 65, 4 higher. $665

1895 MS65 PCGS, Red
Population: 68 in 65, 16 higher. $380

1908-S MS 65 Red PCGS. Well struck, while not quite full on the feathers. Bright golden-red color enhances both sides. Scarce.
Population: 118 in 65, 14 higher. $1,425

1909-S MS 65 Red and Brown PCGS. Well struck, while not quite full on the feathers. Slightly muted golden color overlays both sides. Popular date.
Population: 54 in 65, none higher. $1,525

PROOF INDIAN CENTS

1861 PR64 PCGS
Population: 15 in 64, 10 higher. $2,175

1862 PR65 PCGS Mintage: 550.
Population: 77 in 65, 23 higher. $1,850

1863 PR 65 PCGS. Deeply mirrored in the fields, both sides display beautiful colorations of deep-rose and magenta. A gem quality example of the original, minuscule proof mintage of only 460 pieces. Oddly enough for a proof, the reverse has rotated about 30 degrees to the left. Mintage: 460.
Population: 20 in 65, 6 higher. $2,925

1869 PR65 PCGS, Red and Brown Mintage: 600.
Population: 22 in 65, none higher. $1,200

1870 PR65 NGC, Red and Brown. Full red.
Population: 23 in 65, 3 higher. $760

1870 PR65 NGC, Red.
Population: 10 in 65, 1 higher. $2,000

1871 PR65 NGC, Red and Brown Mintage: 960.
Population: 22 in 65, 6 higher. $1,200

1872 PR65 NGC, Red and Brown Mintage: 950.
Population: 27 in 65, 5 higher. $975

1873 PR 64 Red PCGS. Light golden surfaces, mellowed very slightly on both sides. A very popular date in the Indian cent series.
Population: 31 in 64, 15 higher. $1,300

1876 PR66 NGC, Red and Brown. Brown.
Population: 9 in 66, 1 higher. $1,250

1876 PR64 PCGS, Red
Population: 20 in 64, 24 higher. $1,075

1880 PR65 PCGS, Red
Population: 50 in 65, 25 higher. $705

1882 PR65 PCGS, Red
Population: 13 in 65, 11 higher. $865

1890 PR65 NGC, Red and Brown
Population: 25 in 65, 1 higher. $355

1898 PR66 NGC, Red and Brown
Population: 11 in 66, 1 higher. $515

LINCOLN CENTS

1909-S VDB XF40 ANACS, Brown $530

1909-S VDB AU58 ANACS, Brown $615

1909-S VDB MS64 PCGS, Red and Brown
Population: 684 in 64, 374 higher. $895

1909-S/Horizontal S MS 63 Red ANACS. A bright red example of this popular misplaced mintmark. Slight traces of a fingerprint can be seen on the obverse, some scattered carbon flecks are on the reverse. $355

1914-D XF45 PCGS, Brown
Population: 58 in 45, 148 higher. $435

4th Edition Coming Along

Updated data from recent auction sales are being fed into the text now. Page revisions are being laid out. New page numbering is being assigned. We expect a final total of 310-320 pages. We are scanning several new photographs to fit into the approriate sections. Some photos from the 3rd edition are being deleted and new ones added. There are numerous text revisions, some from recent issues of LINCOLN SENSE. We expect updated data from various population reports, much of which will appear in Chapter 5 (the year-by-year section). SLCC members are encouraged to submit articles, photos, information, etc. Many SLCC sources have been included in previous editions and most will also appear in this edition. More are always welcome and will be acknowledged.

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uestions & Answers

SLCC receives a few questions each month and sometimes they merge—mmon themes. Here are a couple of such merged questions—and SLCC nswers:

: I have many examples of circulated RPMs. How can I best sell them for a fair arket value?

: Most collectors (and dealers) who handle RPMs (and OMMs) want BU ecimens—with a few exceptions. The best way we know of is to offer them small lots (or a big lot) at SLCC mail bid sales. We have many collectors who will dl on circulated RPMs.

: Does it appear that BU Lincolns (the early dates pre-1934) are going up in ice?

: We publish from time to time prices of early Lincolns (such as this issue) to ow current retail values. For the past two years, the trend for BU early ncolns overall is rising. The FUN show auction had almost a complete gem n of Lincolns and they all seem to set new records for each date. We quoted amy of the prices in the last issue of LINCOLN SENSE. The new edition of HE STANDARD GUIDE TO THE LINCOLN CENT will reflect many of e actual auction records to show this trend. The few exceptions to the rule clude the known hoard coins of the early years—1909S VDB, 1920, 1926, 1929S, 30, 1930S, and 1931S (among others).

Convention News

For best results in coin buying, selling, and just looking--go to the major conventions.

ANA convention is August 5-9 in Portland, OR. As usual, in addition to a large bourse selection, there are many education programs, exhibits, and meetings.

Long Beach (CA) show is Sept. 24-27 at the Long Beach Convention Center. This show is held three times a year (fall, winter, and spring). The biggest show on the West Coast--over 300 tables plus meetings. SLCC meets Saturday at 11am at each show.

In addition, there are large regional shows such as FUN (Florida United Numismatists), NENA (New England), and most other metropilitan areas. There are opportunities to buy, sell, trade, shop, chat, and look. Shows are cherrypickers delights. At the SLCC meeting, we often hear of "finds" out there on the floor or even at the auction.

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1917 Doubled Die

One of the rarest doubled dies--and not well known is the 1917 1-0-V. The key features are the 1 and 9 in the date. See photo below. Anyone cherrypick one these babies? BU prices run in the thousands--and perhaps a dozen AU-BU coins known!